Diana Oblinger to be Keynote Speaker at Technology and Standards Conference

The Consumer Bankers Association (CBA), the Education Finance Council (EFC), the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP), and the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are pleased to announce Diana G. Oblinger, Ph.D. as the Keynote Speaker for the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education to be held May 1 – 3, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Oblinger’s Keynote Address, “Integrating Tradition and Technology” will highlight how information technology has catalyzed the creation of new forms of communication, self-expression, and collaboration. She will explore how well education is keeping pace with user expectations, IT capabilities, learning principles, cultural shifts, and the impact of social networking, podcasting, and videoblogging. The Keynote Address is scheduled for Tuesday May 2, 2006 at 1:30pm.

Dr. Diana G. Oblinger is Vice President for EDUCAUSE, responsible for the association’s teaching and learning activities and the director of the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (see http://www.educause.edu/eli). She also serves as an Adjunct Professor of Adult and Higher Education at

See Keynote, Page 3

PESC 8th Annual Membership Meeting

Please be advised that the 8th Annual Meeting of the PESC Membership will be held on Monday May 1, 2006 from 4:30pm – 5:30pm at the Wyndham Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. The draft agenda for the 8th Annual Membership Meeting is now available and posted on the PESC website at http://www.pesc.org/membership/meetings.asp. We ask that you register as well if you are attending the Membership Meeting. The Registration Form is posted on the website in the same location as the agenda.
Reminder: PESC Board of Directors
Nomination and Election Process

As you may know, elections for the PESC Board of Directors are conducted each year at the Annual Membership meeting held during the Annual Conference on Technology and Standards. This year elections will be conducted during PESC’s 8th Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for Monday May 1, 2006 from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm EST at the Wyndham Washington Hotel (1400 M Street NW, Washington DC, 20005). Membership meetings are open to all PESC Members and Affiliates, and with prior notification, other interested parties. To provide continuity, the 2-year terms of Board members are staggered so that only half the Board is up for election this year and the other half is up for election next year (5 out of 10 seats). In preparation for the elections, PESC has established the following process:

Tuesday, March 14, 2006  Nominations Open
Friday, April 7, 2006     Nominations Close
Tuesday, April 11, 2006  Proxy Ballots Issued
Wednesday, April 26, 2006  If not attending the Membership Meeting in person, this is the date by which Proxy Ballots must be received in PESC’s offices
Monday, May 1, 2006     Elections held 4:30pm EST

NOTE: If attending the 8th Annual Membership Meeting in person, Proxy ballots can still be submitted and then can either be replaced with an official vote on Monday May 1, 2006 or remain as the official vote. Representatives from MEMBER organizations (with dues paid current) are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors. The term of service is two years and runs July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2008. Nominations should be made via the Nomination Form available at http://www.pesc.org/about/board-of-directors.asp. When nominating, please ensure that the nominee is aware that a nomination is being made. Nominees will be expected to submit a short BIO and are provided with an opportunity to address the membership at the beginning of the 8th Annual Membership Meeting on Monday May 1, 2006 at 4:30pm EST.
Keynote, From Page 1

North Carolina State University. While employed by two major technology firms, Oblinger continued her focus on higher education. At Microsoft she served as the Executive Director of Higher Education. She also held a variety of management positions within IBM’s higher education division. In addition, she was the IBM Director of the Institute for Academic Technology. See the attached press release (page 6) for more information regarding Dr. Diana Oblinger.

Registration is still available for the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards. With topics focused on SOA, Open Source, XML Scripting, e-Authentication Federations, and timely updates from Federal Student Aid of the U.S. Department of Education, this conference is one that you do not want to miss. Hotel reservations can be made by contacting the Wyndham Washington directly at 202-429-1700 or at 800-996-3426 or online at www.Wyndham.com. The Wyndham Washington is located at 1400 M Street NW in Washington, D.C. A conference rate of $180 has been reserved for single/double hotel rooms. If calling for reservations, the group name is “PESC”; for online reservations, use “0426648POS.” The cut-off date to receive this discounted rate is April 10, 2006. Conference registration is also available online at http://www.PESC.org/events/TechStandards/Third/.

New Members

PESC Welcomes the following new organizations to its membership.

National Career Assessment Services, Inc. (NCASI)
The PESC contact is Richard Gates, Vice President of Operations.
www.NCASl.com

Technology Tidbits and Standards Snippets

- Despite increased production and decreased prices for computer equipment, computers, Internet hosts and secure servers are even more concentrated among developed nations than they were a decade ago, according to study conducted by the University of Washington. The study did find that cell phones and Internet access are more evenly distributed across the world, however, underdeveloped countries are paying more for less services.

- In the United States, African-Americans have begun to narrow the technological gap. A new survey conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project has found that 61 percent of African-American adults are now online, compared with 74 percent of their white counterparts. That number is an improvement over the figures that Pew reported in 1998, when 42 percent of white respondents said they were online, but only 23 percent of African-Americans said the same.

- As part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the House passed a bill March 30 that would require accreditors that evaluate online courses and institutions to have colleges verify that the student who registers for a distance-education course is the same student who completes the course.

- After years of ongoing debate, federal legislation,
commonly referred to as the 50 percent rule, has been changed to allow schools that deliver more than half of their courses online to qualify to offer federal financial aid. Passed as part of the budget bill not the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the new law will allow traditional colleges to increase their online offerings with the threat of losing federal financial aid for their students and allow online college to participate in student aid programs for the first time.

- Educause, the higher-education technology consortium, will continue to administer the .edu Internet domain through at least 2011 now that the U.S. Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration has extended its contract with the group for an additional five years.

- Colleges that had feared having to spend millions of dollars to comply with a law on enabling the government to monitor online communications are closely analyzing a court brief filed this week. The brief, from the FCC, suggests that major computer-network modifications will not be required. (The Chronicle, subscription required) http://chronicle.com/wired-campus/index.php?id=1055

- The Schools Interoperability Framework Association (SIFA) Board recently announced agreements with Becta in the United Kingdom, European Schoolnet in Europe and education.au limited in Australia. Collectively, SIFA and these three organizations will lead the technical development of a world-class specification to better enable data interoperability.

- Academic-library groups were not satisfied with the changes made to the Patriot Act prior to its renewal last month. The library groups, along with civil libertarians, are particularly troubled by two Patriot Act provisions that give the FBI authority to demand that organizations secretly turn over library, business, medical, and educational records.

- W3C has issued a Last Call Public Working Draft of XML Schema 1.1: Datatypes. It defines facilities for defining datatypes to be used in XML Schemas as well as other XML specifications. Major changes since 1.0: (1) Support for XML 1.1 has been added; (2) A new primitive decimal type has
been defined. (3) In order to align this specification with those being prepared by the XSL and XML Query Working Groups, a new datatype named atomicAnyType which serves as the base type definition for all primitive atomic datatypes has been introduced. (4) The conceptual model of the date- and time-related types has been defined more formally. (5) A more formal treatment of the fundamental facets of the primitive datatypes has been adopted; (6) More formal definitions of the lexical space of most types have been provided. For more information, visit http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/WD-xmlschema11-2-20060217/

- The U.S. State Department soon will begin issuing passports with radio frequency identification, or RFID, chips embedded in them, and Virginia may become the first state to glue RFID tags into all its driver’s licenses. A host of political, cultural and even religious concerns has prevented a national ID from being adopted in the United States.

- Researchers from Syracuse University and the University of Washington, have received a grant to establish a website called the Credibility Commons, where researchers will share computer programs that they and others have written to help users find credible online information. Users often decide whether to believe a particular site’s information on the basis of how professional the site appears or how closely the site’s information matches their own views, he says.

- The Data Quality Campaign (DQC) is seeking to improve the collection and use of high-quality data to drive school reform by encouraging all 50 states to implement statewide longitudinal data systems for education by 2009. The group also seeks to increase policy makers’ and educators’ understanding of how to use longitudinal and financial data to improve student achievement, as well as to promote standards for the efficient exchange and transfer of educational data.

- As college professors debate the merits of bringing handheld computers, clickers, and other technological toys into the classroom, they may want to consider one key point: A good number of students have already used the devices in elementary school and high school. More than one in four school districts keeps PDA’s on hand for students and teachers, according to one survey,

- National LambdaRail has completed its 15,000-mile, fiber-optic computer network that connects researchers at major universities across the country. Merger talks are continuing with Internet2, a consortium that built a similar network to serve many smaller universities.
Diana G. Oblinger, Ph.D. Announced as Keynote Speaker for 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education

March 3, 2006 Washington DC ~ The Consumer Bankers Association (CBA), the Education Finance Council (EFC), the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHelp), and the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) are pleased to announce Diana G. Oblinger, Ph.D. as the Keynote Speaker for the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards in Higher Education to be held May 1 – 3, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

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Known for her leadership in teaching and learning with technology as well as distributed learning, she serves on a variety of boards including the National Science Foundation’s Directorate of Education and Human Resources, the National Academies Forum on Information Technology and Research Universities, and the editorial board of Open Learning. She chairs the National Visiting Committee for the National Science Digital Library project for National Science Foundation. Dr. Oblinger has testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Employment, Safety and Training and the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Technology.
Oblinger is a frequent keynote speaker as well as the co-author of the book *What Business Wants from Higher Education* which received the 1999 Frandson Award for best literature in continuing education. She is co-editor of six books: *The Learning Revolution, The Future Compatible Campus, Renewing Administration, The “E” is for Everything, Best Practices in Student Services, and Educating the Net Generation*. She is the author or co-author of dozens of monographs and articles on higher education and technology. Dr. Oblinger has received outstanding teaching and research awards and was named Young Alumnus of the Year by Iowa State University. She holds three degrees from Iowa State University: a B.S. in Botany, an M.S. in Plant Breeding and a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Cytogenetics. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Xi.

For more information about the 3rd Annual Conference on Technology and Standards and to register, please visit [www.PESC.org/Events/TechStandards/Third/](http://www.PESC.org/Events/TechStandards/Third/).
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Helena Sims  
hsims@nacha.org

EAP Board of Directors Elects Officers  
Next EAP Meeting Announced for June 28, 2006

April 3, 2006 Washington, D.C. ~ The Board of Directors of the Electronic Authentication Partnership (EAP) announced today that newly elected officers will begin serving one-year terms, effective April 11, 2006. The officers were elected during the EAP’s most recent meeting in San Francisco on March 7, 2006. Incoming officers are:

Chair: Michael D. Sessa, Executive Director, Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC)
Vice Chair: David Temoshok, Director, Identity Policy/Management, U.S. General Services Administration
Secretary: Gabe Minton, Vice President Industry Technology, Mortgage Bankers Association
Treasurer: Glen Gainer III, State Auditor, West Virginia, Representing the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT)

Individuals comprising the remaining Board of Directors include:

- Michael A. Aisenberg, Director of Government Relations, VeriSign, Inc.
- Catherine A. Allen, CEO, BITS
- Paula Arcioni, Identity Management Services Program Manager, State of New Jersey, Office of Information Technology
- Richard Carter, Director, Technical Standards and Programs, American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)
- James DeVaul, Partner, Risk and Advisory Services, KPMG
- Jane Hennessy, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo
- John Landwehr, Director, Adobe Systems Incorporated
- Elliott C. McEntee, President and CEO, NACHA – The Electronic Payments Association
- Jack Radzikowski, Director, Commercial Identity Management Practice, Northrop Grumman
- Bill Smith, Director, Business Alliances, Sun Microsystems, Inc., Representing the Liberty Alliance
- Javier Vasquez, Federal Program Manager, Identity Manager, Microsoft Corporation
- James Wagner, President, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

The Board of Directors is also pleased to announce that the next meeting of the EAP will take place on June 28, 2006 at the National Center for Higher Education Conference Center located
at One Dupont Circle NW in Washington, D.C. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. The agenda for the EAP meeting will be issued shortly.

For more information about the Electronic Authentication Partnership or to become a member, please visit [www.eapartnership.org](http://www.eapartnership.org).

**About the EAP**
The Electronic Authentication Partnership is comprised of a wide range of stakeholders, including Federal government agencies, state governments, private sector companies and organizations, public interest groups and trade groups. The goal of the EAP is to provide organizations with a trusted means of relying on digital credentials issued by a variety of e-authentication systems. The EAP is headquartered in Herndon, Virginia and is administratively affiliated with NACHA - The Electronic Payments Association. The EAP welcomes any public or private sector organization. For more information on the EAP visit [www.eapartnership.org](http://www.eapartnership.org).

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The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance will host a hearing on April 4, 2006, from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Washington Court Hotel, in Washington, D.C., to launch its Study of Innovative Pathways to Baccalaureate Degree Attainment.

Throughout this three-year initiative, we will identify creative programs and strategies that increase the likelihood that low- and moderate-income students attain a baccalaureate degree. This study falls under the Advisory Committee’s charge from Congress to make recommendations that will maintain access to postsecondary education for low- and moderate-income students. Over the course of this study, we will conduct several focus group meetings and regional hearings. Findings will be included in a series of reports for Congress and the Secretary of Education that highlight exemplary approaches to increasing baccalaureate degree attainment that policymakers might support and encourage.

This hearing will be the first in a series of events to launch and conduct the study. The last session will be a roundtable discussion on innovative pathways to degree attainment among Advisory Committee members and all panelists. A limited amount of time will be reserved for public comment. Prior to the hearing, five minutes will be allotted (in order of registration) to those who request time to comment.

TO REGISTER FOR THE HEARING, PLEASE CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK: 
http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/acsfa/registration/edlite-index.html

This hearing is open to the public. Please share this announcement with colleagues.

Space is limited so please register early.

A hearing agenda and list of panelists will be available on our website (www.ed.gov/ACSFA) under the “What’s New” link

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Please join us on April 4 in Washington, D.C.
Washington Court Hotel, The Executive Room, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW
For more information, please call 202-219-2099 or email: ACSFA@ed.gov